

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel) secured \$700,000 to fund three Monterey transportation projects and has succeeded in releasing \$9 million for the Prunedale Bypass project.

The money was included in the House Appropriations bill that funds the U.S. Department of Transportation. It will be voted on by the full House of Representatives later this month where it is expected to pass.

"Our Central Coast communities are rapidly expanding and our tourism industry continues to grow. That combination is taxing our transportation systems," Rep. Farr said. "These funds will provide important longterm investments in our infrastructure."

### **Monterey projects:**

- Rep. Farr was responsible for the release of \$9 for the Prunedale Bypass. The funding bill will clarify congressional intent for the project that was originally funded in 1992. Caltrans believes the term "bypass" limits the scope of work to the actual bypass, which was not the original congressional intent. The new language will allow for a broader interpretation and will release funds for bypass construction and related projects.
- \$200,000 will go to Monterey Salinas Transit to be put toward leveraged, multi-year debt financing for the purchase of new clean diesel buses. These buses will allow for savings from future maintenance and fuel costs and expand long-distance regional service.
- \$250,000 will be devoted to the Airport Blvd./Highway 101 interchange project. This interchange is an agricultural distribution hub in dire need of renovation.
- \$250,000 will go to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. After completion, this multi-use pathway will link 52 miles of existing and newly established trail segments into a continuous coastal trail around the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

The Transportation and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill will be voted on by the full House later in the month. For more information on these programs or the appropriations process, contact Tom Mentzer at 202-225-2861 or e-mail [tom.mentzer@mail.house.gov](mailto:tom.mentzer@mail.house.gov).

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